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(54) **Alternative telephone call routing system**

(57) A telecommunication system includes a source private branch exchange (12) that transmits telephone calls from a source to a destination private branch exchange (26) over a public switched telephone network (18). As an alternative to transmitting the calls over the public switched telephone network, the private branch exchange is coupled to a telephony Internet server 30

that can transmit telephone calls over a global wide area computer network such as the Internet (32). The private branch exchange (12) queries the destination private branch exchange (26) to determine if it similarly coupled to a telephony Internet server. If so, the bandwidth used by the telephony Internet server will allow the transmission of the telephone call, the call is routed over the Internet (32) to the intended recipient.

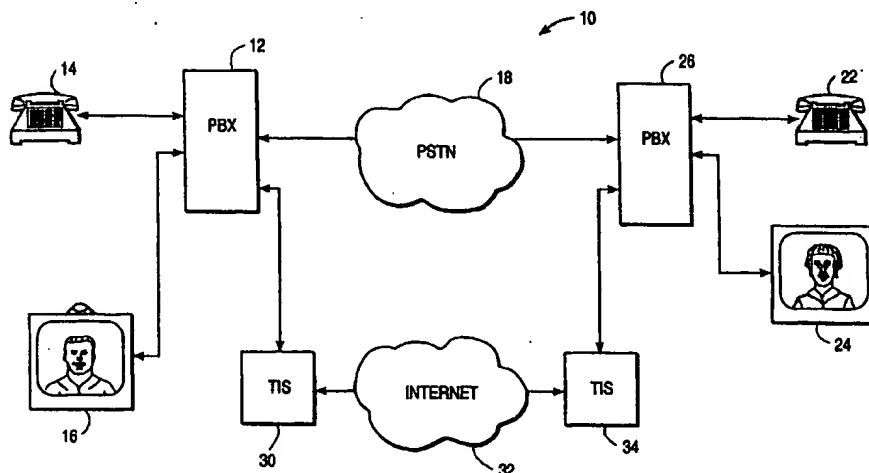


FIG. 1



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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| DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT | | | |
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| Category | Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages | Relevant to claim | CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6) |
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| The present search report has been drawn up for all claims | | | |
| Place of search THE HAGUE | | Date of completion of the search 17 June 2002 | Examiner Vandevenne, M |
| CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document | | T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document | |

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 98 11 8543

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The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
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17-06-2002

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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82